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Abstract. Rate constants and product branching ratios for reactions involving atmospherically interesting ions and ClONO_2 have been measured. H_3O^+ reacts rapidly with ClONO_2 , but hydrates of H_3O^+ do not. This implies that ClONO_2 does not play a central role in the positive ion chemistry of the atmosphere. CO_3^- reacts with ClONO_2 to form NO_3^- . Both NO_3^- and $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ react with ClONO_2 to form $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$. H_2O does not react with $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$, which is essential to the proposed in situ measurement technique. $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$ does react with HNO_3 and HCl , producing $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)$ in both cases. The reaction of $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HCl})$ with ClONO_2 also produces $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)$. These latter two efficient reactions, which are discussed in detail in a separate publication, are analogous to the efficient neutral heterogeneous reaction of HCl with ClONO_2 which is important in the chemistry of the Antarctic stratosphere. A detection scheme is presented for atmospheric ClONO_2 based on the reactions studied and utilizing mass spectrometry. A ClONO_2 detection limit of 10^7 molecules cm^{-3} is estimated based on the operating characteristics of current ion-molecule based mass spectrometric field instruments.

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Ion chemistry of ClONO₂ involving NO₃⁻ core ions: A detection scheme for ClONO₂ in the atmosphere

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Abstract. Rate constants and product branching ratios for reactions involving atmospherically interesting ions and ClONO₂ have been measured. H₃O⁺ reacts rapidly with ClONO₂, but hydrates of H₃O⁺ do not. This implies that ClONO₂ does not play a central role in the positive ion chemistry of the atmosphere. CO₃⁻ reacts with ClONO₂ to form NO₃⁻. Both NO₃⁻ and NO₃⁻(H₂O) react with ClONO₂ to form NO₃⁻(ClONO₂). H₂O does not react with NO₃⁻(ClONO₂), which is essential to the proposed in situ measurement technique. NO₃⁻(ClONO₂) does react with HNO₃ and HCl, producing NO₃⁻(HNO₃) in both cases. The reaction of NO₃⁻(HCl) with ClONO₂ also produces NO₃⁻(HNO₃). These latter two efficient reactions, which are discussed in detail in a separate publication, are analogous to the efficient neutral heterogeneous reaction of HCl with ClONO₂ which is important in the chemistry of the Antarctic stratosphere. A detection scheme is presented for atmospheric ClONO₂ based on the reactions studied and utilizing mass spectrometry. A ClONO₂ detection limit of 10⁷ molecules cm⁻³ is estimated based on the operating characteristics of current ion-molecule based mass spectrometric field instruments.

Introduction

The details of the chemical cycling of inorganic chlorine species and nitrogen oxide species (NO_x) in the stratosphere are critical to our understanding of stratospheric ozone chemistry. In the presence of polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs), the heterogeneous reactions of the chlorine reservoir species ClONO₂, HCl, and HOCl chemically transform these long-lived species into photoactive species which can lead to rapid and catalytic destruction of ozone. In the midlatitude stratosphere and in the absence of PSCs, the combination of photochemical life cycles of these species results in a relatively stable ozone concentration. The chemical life cycle of chlorine nitrate is especially important to the chemistry of the stratosphere because it is a member of both the inorganic chlorine and NO_x families. As such, chlorine nitrate couples these two important chemical families. Understanding the complex chemistry and changing concentration of chlorine nitrate is critical to a complete understanding of the chemistry of the atmosphere.

Despite the importance of chlorine nitrate to the chemistry of the stratosphere, few in situ measurements of its concentration in the atmosphere have been made [Rinsland *et al.*, 1985; Raper *et al.*, 1987; Toon *et al.*, 1993]. Current measurements include column abundance determinations, where a vertical profile is estimated from the spectral line shape [Toon *et al.*, 1993]. Detailed models of stratospheric chemistry, however, do not generally use these values of ClONO₂ but rather deduce the concentration of ClONO₂ from measurements of related species [Salawitch *et al.*, 1993]. Many

models assume that total inorganic chlorine is essentially divided between HCl and ClONO₂ (in the absence of PSCs) and therefore calculate the concentration of ClONO₂ from the difference between the total inorganic chlorine concentration, derived from N₂O measurements, and the measured HCl concentration [Salawitch *et al.*, 1993; Webster *et al.*, 1993]. Recently, Webster *et al.* [1993] made the first in situ spectroscopic determinations of the HCl concentration in the stratosphere. Their values, measured outside of the polar vortices, differ from previous determinations by as much as a factor of 2 [Raper *et al.*, 1987; Webster *et al.*, 1993]. If total inorganic chlorine is partitioned between HCl and ClONO₂, their measurements indicate that there is a corresponding error in the accepted ClONO₂ values [Rodriguez, 1993; Webster *et al.*, 1993]. The discrepancies between these different determinations represent significant differences in our overall understanding of the chemistry of the stratosphere. A direct in situ measurement of the concentration of ClONO₂ in the stratosphere would contribute significantly to a resolution of these discrepancies.

In situ ion composition measurements have proven to be a valuable tool in determining atmospheric concentrations of trace neutral species when combined with the knowledge of the chemistry and rate constants involved. Determination of concentrations of naturally abundant atmospheric species using ion chemistry has been developed mainly by the research groups of Arnold and Eisele, and their work has recently been reviewed by Viggiano [1993]. Detection of neutral species can be achieved by measurements of ambient atmospheric ions or, in a more elaborate apparatus, by measurements of product ions formed from reaction with ions produced in an active ion source. These mass spectrometric techniques combine the selectivity of ion-molecule

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chemistry with the sensitivity of mass spectrometry to yield a very powerful detection technique for neutral species abundant in only trace amounts. Measurements of a number of species in the parts per quadrillion range have been made. Negative ion composition measurements have been very successful in determining the concentrations of NO_2^- and HNO_3^- species [Arnold *et al.*, 1992; Viggiano, 1993]. However, no detection scheme has been successfully devised previously for ClONO_2 . In this paper we report kinetics measurements involving NO_3^- core ions and ClONO_2 , the latter species as both a ligand and a neutral reactant. We believe these data will make in situ determinations of the atmospheric ClONO_2 concentration possible using currently available mass spectrometric ion detection field instruments.

Experiment

The measurements were made using the Phillips Laboratory variable temperature-selected ion flow drift tube apparatus [Viggiano *et al.*, 1990]. Instruments of this type have been the subject of review [Smith and Adams, 1988], and only those aspects important to the present study will be discussed in detail. Ions were created by electron impact in a high-pressure ion source (~ 0.1 – 1 torr). The ions were extracted from the source, mass selected in a quadrupole mass filter, and injected into a flow tube. Buffer gas was added through a Venturi inlet surrounding the ion injection orifice and transported the ions along the length of the flow tube. The Venturi inlet aids in injecting the ions at low energy, critical to the present experiments. Downstream, after the ions have had sufficient collisions with the buffer to thermalize, the neutral reactant is added. At the end of the flow tube, a small fraction of the ions are sampled through a 0.2 -mm hole in a nose cone. The ions sampled are mass analyzed in a second quadrupole mass spectrometer and detected by a channel electron multiplier. Flow rates of the buffer and of the reactant gas were controlled and measured by MKS flow controllers. The entire flow tube could be heated or cooled. As will be explained below, cooling was necessary to perform some of the experiments presented. Rate constants were determined from the decay of the primary ion signal as a function of added neutral flow.

The weakly bonded cluster ions used in the present experiments required mild conditions to minimize both collisional breakup upon injection and thermal dissociation in the flow tube. NO_3^- and $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)$ were made from NO_2 and a several percent HNO_3 impurity in our NO_2 sample. $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)$ is a strongly bonded cluster ion, and no special conditions were needed for working with it except low-injection energy. In contrast, it was quite difficult to form, inject, and detect a sufficient concentration of $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. This ion was made from a mixture of NO_2 and H_2O . Our problems were traced to three sources: (1) instability of the ion in the ion source, (2) breakup of the ion upon injection and (3) thermal dissociation in the flow tube. First attempts at injecting $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ into a He buffer at room temperature proved unsuccessful. We observed mainly NO_3^- ion signal and a small mass 80 signal which we later identified as SO_3^- (formed from impurities in the source from previous experiments) and not $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$. In order to make a sufficient quantity of $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ we needed both to cool the system and to use a H_2 buffer. The cooling was necessary to prevent thermal dissociation in the buffer gas, which is a problem at

room temperature. This is based on the knowledge of the known association rate constant [Ikezoe *et al.*, 1987] and thermodynamics [Keese and Castleman, Jr., 1986] through $K = k_f/k_r$. The use of a H_2 buffer lowers the center of mass energy upon injection for the same laboratory frame energy [Viggiano, 1984]. Even with these steps, about equal parts of NO_3^- and $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ were initially present in the flow tube. The presence of both these ions does not affect our rate constant measurements. Both of these ions produce only $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$, and therefore product determination also was unaffected. $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$ was made by adding NO_2 and ClONO_2 to the source. Creation, injection, and detection of $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$ was easier than $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{H}_2\text{O})$ but more difficult than $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)$, reflecting the intermediate cluster bond strength of $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{ClONO}_2)$. $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$ ions were made from H_2O , and CO_3^- was formed from CO_2 .

The ClONO_2 was synthesized from ClF and HNO_3 by the method of Shack [1967] with some modification [Lloyd, 1993] and stored at 200 K. During the experiments, the ClONO_2 was heated to 233 K, and the vapor was added to the flow tube through a mass flow controller. At this temperature, little of the HNO_3 impurity present in the sample should be volatile. The flow rate of ClONO_2 was calibrated by using the heat capacity given by Miller *et al.* [1967]. In initial experiments the ClONO_2 sample was found to contain a large amount of HNO_3 . After flowing the ClONO_2 for a time period of the order of an hour or two, the HNO_3 impurity was greatly reduced, presumably through conditioning of the inlet lines; that is, water on the inlet line surfaces had reacted away. The experiments required the use of a large amount of ClONO_2 which limited the number of reactions studied to date because of limited sample quantity, and further studies are planned. We estimate the uncertainty in our rate constants to be $\pm 30\%$ and the relative error to be 20% , slightly higher than our usual error limits.

Results

Table 1 lists the reactions studied and the temperatures at which the rate constants were measured. As explained in the experimental section, different ions were best studied at different temperatures. The limited amount of ClONO_2 sample we could obtain prevented us from making extensive temperature dependence measurements. Temperature dependence studies are planned for the future.

The group of reactions listed in Table 1 was chosen for the potential importance in the atmosphere both in terms of the chemistry of ambient ions and for detection of ClONO_2 . The series $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$ can be considered the starting point for much of the positive ion chemistry of the lower atmosphere, with the $n = 3$ or higher species being by far the predominant ions [Ferguson and Arnold, 1981]. The present results show that ClONO_2 does not react with $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_{\geq 2}$. Essentially, all other positive ions in the lower atmosphere are more stable than $\text{H}_3\text{O}^+(\text{H}_2\text{O})_n$ and will presumably also be unreactive toward ClONO_2 . Therefore the positive ion chemistry of the atmosphere is essentially unaffected by the presence of ClONO_2 .

The most important ambient negative ions are the series $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)_n$ with $n = 1$ to 3 being the most abundant [Viggiano and Arnold, 1983]. Above 30 km, the series $\text{HSO}_4^-(\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4)_m(\text{HNO}_3)_n$ also becomes important. The present results show that $\text{NO}_3^-(\text{HNO}_3)$ does not react ap-

Table 1. Rate Constants for Reactions Involving ClONO₂

Reaction	Rate Constant, cm ³ s ⁻¹	Temperature, K
(1) NO ₃ ⁻ + ClONO ₂ + H ₂ → NO ₃ ⁻ (ClONO ₂) + H ₂	3.0 (-10) ^a	232
(2) CO ₃ ⁻ + ClONO ₂ → NO ₃ ⁻ + ClO + CO ₂	2.1 (-9)	232
(3) NO ₃ ⁻ (HNO ₃) + ClONO ₂ → products ^b	<2 (-11) ^b	232
(4) NO ₃ ⁻ (H ₂ O) + ClONO ₂ → NO ₃ ⁻ (ClONO ₂) + H ₂ O	1.8 (-9)	232
(5) NO ₃ ⁻ (ClONO ₂) + H ₂ O → products	n.r. ^c	283
(6) NO ₃ ⁻ (ClONO ₂) + HNO ₃ → NO ₃ ⁻ (HNO ₃) + ClONO ₂	1.1 (-9)	283
(7) NO ₃ ⁻ (ClONO ₂) + HCl → NO ₃ ⁻ (HNO ₃) + Cl ₂ (94%) → NO ₃ ⁻ (HCl) + ClONO ₂ (6%)	1.5 (-9)	283
(8) NO ₃ ⁻ (HCl) + ClONO ₂ → NO ₃ ⁻ (HNO ₃) + Cl ₂ (98%) ^d → NO ₃ ⁻ (ClONO ₂) + HCl (2%)	1.8 (-9)	233
(9) H ₃ O ⁺ + ClONO ₂ → H ⁺ · ClONO ₂ + H ₂ O (31%) ^e → NO ₂ ⁺ + H ₂ OHOC(6%) ^{e,f} → NO ₂ ⁺ (H ₂ O) + HOCl (63%) ^e	2.9 (-9)	233
(10) H ₃ O ⁺ (H ₂ O) + ClONO ₂ → products ^g	<1.3 (-10) ^g	233
(11) H ₃ O ⁺ (H ₂ O) ₂ + ClONO ₂ → products	n.r. ^c	233
(12) H ₃ O ⁺ (H ₂ O) ₃ + ClONO ₂ → products	n.r. ^c	233

^a3.0 (-10) means 3 × 10⁻¹⁰.^bNo product observed.^cNo reaction, no decline in reactant ion signal.^dEstimated effect of HNO₃ impurity is less than 1 percentage point.^eBranching ratio not corrected for HNO₃ impurity, correction will increase H⁺ · ClONO₂ with respect to the other products.^fNeutral product is written as a dimer since monomer formation is endothermic by 0.4 eV. Dimer bond strength is unknown but formation should make the reaction close to thermoneutral.^gHNO₃ impurity could account for the reactivity.

preciably with ClONO₂, and it is therefore expected that the higher clusters are unreactive as well. The more stable ions HSO₄⁻(H₂SO₄)_n(HNO₃)_n also are not expected to react.

CO₃⁻ and CO₃⁻(H₂O) have been used successfully to monitor the concentrations of NO, NO₂, HNO₂, and HNO₃ [Arnold *et al.*, 1992]. Here we find that CO₃⁻ reacts rapidly with ClONO₂ to form NO₃⁻. However, this is not a useful reaction for detecting the presence of ClONO₂ since NO, NO₂, N₂O₅, and HNO₃ also form NO₃⁻ from reaction with CO₃⁻ [Ikezoe *et al.*, 1987]. In fact, the reaction of ClONO₂ with CO₃⁻ may obscure or complicate the detection of some of these other species when ClONO₂ concentrations are comparable to that of the nitrogen oxide species of interest.

Another series of ions that is easy to create in active ion source measurements is NO₃⁻ and its hydrates, NO₃⁻(H₂O)_n, particularly the first hydrate (where *n* = 1). The present results show that both NO₃⁻ and NO₃⁻(H₂O) react with ClONO₂ to form NO₃⁻(ClONO₂). These reactions each form an ion, which can be uniquely connected with the presence of ClONO₂, an important condition for the accurate determination of atmospheric concentrations. The clustering rate between NO₃⁻ and ClONO₂ is relatively slow and would appear to reduce the sensitivity of using this reaction as a ClONO₂ detector. One must note, however, that our results refer to a pressure of only 0.2 torr, while the region of interest for atmospheric detection of ClONO₂, 10-25 km, has a pressure of ~20 - 200 torr. One expects that this reaction will saturate under atmospheric conditions and cluster at approximately the collision rate, that is, the rate constant will be the same as that for NO₃⁻(H₂O). Direct measurements of this rate constant in a high-pressure apparatus

are needed to verify this assumption. In summary, NO₃⁻(ClONO₂) should be formed very rapidly by both NO₃⁻ and NO₃⁻(H₂O) under atmospheric conditions.

While this scheme includes a rapid means of forming an ion species that can be attributed unambiguously to ClONO₂, there are potentially interfering reactions. Fortunately, H₂O does not react with NO₃⁻(ClONO₂). If this reaction were to proceed, the large abundance of H₂O in the atmosphere would ensure that NO₃⁻(ClONO₂) would be lost before it could be detected. There are nevertheless several reactions that could interfere with this detection scheme. HNO₃ switches ClONO₂ out of NO₃⁻(ClONO₂) rapidly to form NO₃⁻(HNO₃). HCl reacts with NO₃⁻(ClONO₂) to form NO₃⁻(HNO₃). This last reaction and the reaction of NO₃⁻(HCl) with ClONO₂ are analogous to the neutral heterogeneous reaction of ClONO₂ with HCl which is important in the mechanism of stratospheric ozone loss in the polar winter. These reactions are discussed in detail in a separate publication [Van Doren *et al.*, 1994].

The ion chemical detection scheme derived from our measurements for determining the concentration of ambient ClONO₂ is as follows. A chemical ionization source is set up to produce NO₃⁻ and NO₃⁻(H₂O) as the primary ions. These ions are injected into a flow reactor connected to a mass spectrometer. In the flow tube, reactions (1) and (4) both produce NO₃⁻(ClONO₂). The rate constants for both of these reactions are expected to be large at stratospheric temperatures and pressures and for the present purposes can be assumed to be equal to the rate constant for reaction (4). Total depletion of the NO₃⁻ and NO₃⁻(H₂O) primary ions must be kept small, that is, less than 10%. This ensures that

